

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse, located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Gerrit H. DeVries, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts, Paul Norwine and Brett Risner. Also present was Deputy Auditor Tina Porter. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Fritts.

MINUTES: Mr. Andree made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular August 15, 2017 meeting, as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the minutes from the continued August 17, 2017 meeting, as presented. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fritts made a motion to approve the minutes from the continued August 23, 2017 meeting, as presented. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET ADOPTION: Mr. Bontreger read the 2018 budget adoption ordinance aloud. He stated that the information can also be found online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov. **Ordinance No. 2017-09A**

Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
General	\$12,777,972	\$8,503,000	0.4815
2015 Reassessment	\$331,740	\$331,774	0.0188
Local Income Tax	\$1,515,900	\$0	0.0000
Highway	\$4,052,097	\$0	0.0000
Local Road & Street	\$531,668	\$0	0.0000
Cumulative Bridge	\$1,000,000	\$173,048	0.0098
Health	\$316,455	\$316,536	0.0179
Emergency Ambulance/Med Services – Fire	\$751,697	\$751,909	0.0426
Cumulative Capital Improvement (Rate)	\$1,000,000	\$663,939	0.0376
Cumulative Capital Development	\$890,200	\$349,627	0.0198
Totals	\$23,167,729	\$11,089,833	0.6280

Home-Ruled Funds (Not Reviewed by DLGF)

Fund Name	Adopted Budget
Clerk Rec Perpetuation	\$11,883
Community Corrections Project Income	\$480,755
Extradition Services (Superior Court)	\$20,000
LIT Public Safety – County Share	\$1,460,961
Deferral & Diversion	\$23,458
Recorders Record Perpetuation	\$45,937
Surveyor’s Corner Perpetuation	\$14,000
Local Health Maintenance Trust	\$20,739
Statewide 911	\$466,875
Supplemental Adult Probation	\$58,574
Community Corrections Work Release	\$8,000
Supplemental Juvenile Probation	\$16,968
County User Fees	\$63,600

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BUDGET ADOPTION CONT'D:

Donation Warning Sirens	\$4,000
Balance Innkeepers	
Tax Fund	\$143,000
General Local Health Maintenance	
Trust (1069)	\$33,139
Emergency Planning / Right to	
Know	\$13,000
2016 LOIT Special	
Distribution	\$2,000,000
Prosecutor Federal	
Forfeiture	\$14,500
Prosecutor State Drug	
Recovery	\$16,000
Donations Animal Shelter	\$4,000
Sales Disclosure (County	
Share)	\$25,000
LIT County Share Economic	
Development	\$1,360,160
Community Crossings Grant	\$1,000,000
Total	\$7,304,549

Mr. Risner made a motion to approve the budget for 2018 as presented. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bontreger commended the Councilmen for their diligent, hard work on the budget. He also thanked the Auditor's Office for their help in getting the Council the information they needed.

NON-BINDING REVIEWS: There was no one in attendance to present to the Council. Mr. Bontreger stated that, when it comes to the budgets that the Council does not control, the Council recommends that they stay within the State-approved growth factor of four percent.

LIT: Mr. Bontreger stated that he thought the Council was of the consensus that the local income tax rate would not be changed. He said the Council should take a vote to not take any action. The current rate is 2.864. He welcomed discussion. Mr. DeVries stated that he was concerned when Umbaugh mentioned raising the rate. He believes that is also a concern among numerous residents. He would like the public to be heard before a motion is made to increase the rate. Mr. Bontreger stated that Umbaugh mentioned a rate increase as an option available to the County. He would like the County to live within it's means rather than increasing the rate. Mr. Andree stated that the Council was as frugal as could be and he doesn't believe that any Council member had the intention of raising the rate. Mr. Fritts stated that he would like to echo what Mr. Andree said. The Council worked hard to cut the budget. He explained to the audience who Umbaugh is and what their role was with this year's budget process. He explained that the health of the County as a whole is good; although the General Fund balance is decreasing. Going forward, we should wait and see how the fund looks at the end of the 2018 budget year. Mr. Bontreger explained that, to maintain a good credit rating, each fund needs to have at least a fifteen percent cash balance at the end of the year, which allows for bills to be paid for the first two months of the year when there is a lag in income. This will be put in to written policy. Mr. Jordan explained the change from LOIT to LIT. He stated that we have no control over assessed valuation in the County. Mr. Risner mentioned that thirty percent of counties have either raised or adopted a local income tax. Mr. Fritts stated that this was over the past three years. He said that Jasper County is starting to feel the effects of lowering the rate a couple years ago and that, currently, there is almost an equal split between property tax and income tax.

Karen Peterson, a citizen from the Fair Oaks area, stated that she's retired with social security and a pension. She moved here from Iowa and is not earning any income in Jasper County. She questioned why she has to pay the county income tax. It was explained to her that she would pay the income tax on the pension income she's receiving.

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LIT CONT'D: Tom Edwards, a citizen from the Fair Oaks area, stated that he owns property. He questioned whether there is a difference in the LIT rate between a property owner and a non-property owner. Mr. Jordan explained that there is no difference on the LIT rate. He explained the different sections of the LIT rate.

Mr. Bontreger stated that, although Jasper County has a higher income tax rate, we have one of the lowest property tax rates in the State as a result. There was an explanation given regarding the Property Tax Replacement Credit.

Ryan Hilton, a citizen from DeMotte, stated that he does not own property and he has two kids that are fifth generation Jasper County residents. He stated that he is content with the LIT rate and would not be opposed if the rate needed to be increased some.

Belinda Moran, a citizen from DeMotte, stated that a lot of people moved to the area because of the low taxes and she would like to see them stay that way.

Mr. Bontreger stated that this will be on the agenda next year. Mr. Jordan made a motion to keep the LIT tax and distribution the same as it has been in the past year. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING OF BINDING TAXING UNITS:

Rensselaer Central School Corporation: Curt Craig, Rensselaer Central School Corporation, stated that their General Fund budget is approximately one and one-half percent higher than it was last year. The General Fund is driven by student enrollment. There was no change in Debt Service. Capital Projects was reduced and Transportation and Bus Replacement was increased. The total advertised budget is \$17,057,000.00. Their enrollment was 1,587 at the beginning of the school year and 1,569 at the end. From 2008 until 2012 or 2013, they saw a steady drop in enrollment before it leveled out. They don't have enrollment numbers yet for this year.

Airport Authority Board: Ray Seif and Craig Jackson were present on behalf of the Airport Authority Board. Mr. Seif stated that they kept the operating budget about the same as it was last year. CUM Building was increased in order to make asphalt repairs. There was a small adjustment made to the Fuel Fund. July and August were the best on record for fuel sales. They were able to raise \$1,000.00 for Mercy Flight from the Tunes on the Tarmac event. They recently acquired a tug through a government surplus by simply paying an administrative and delivery fee, which will allow the Airport to provide hangar in and out service at no additional cost. They also provide assisted self-serve for an additional fee. They have two T-hangar units that are currently not leased and are being used for overnight rentals.

Airport Additional Appropriation: Advertised in the Jasper County Airport Authority Rainy Day Fund is an additional request in the amount of \$101,256.00. Advertised in the Jasper County Airport Authority CUM Building Fund is an additional request in the amount of \$100,800.00. Mr. Seif stated that these are funds that were previously approved but not used and not encumbered from 2016 to 2017. Mr. Fritts made a motion to approve both additional requests. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District: Carol Stradling, Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District, stated that the district serves six counties (Benton, Carroll, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski and White). They receive approximately \$400,000.00 from the Newton and White county landfills, which leaves a shortfall of approximately \$100,000.00. She passed out the 2016 annual report and the 2018 budget estimate. She explained that, because Jasper County has the highest assessed valuation, the Jasper County Council are the ones to approve their budget. Jasper County receives partial reimbursement to help offset the costs of recycling. She stated that they will no longer be directly involved in collecting tires after Saturday, September 23, 2017 due to the loss of help from the Miami County Correctional Facility, but they will still continue the household waste collection. The biggest change in the budget is that they put \$35,000.00 in Capital Improvements to purchase a vehicle.

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PUBLIC HEARING OF BINDING TAXING UNITS CONT'D:

Iroquois Conservancy District: Russell Collins and Dan Blaney were present. Mr. Collins stated that the budget was increased by approximately \$100,000.00. They have ten more sites to clean up. They've worked with Mr. Kingman over the years, but will be trying to partner with Schneider.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / CIRCUIT COURT: Advertised in the County General Fund, Circuit Court, Translator / Interpreter was \$3,000.00. Mr. Andree made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / ANIMAL CONTROL: Advertised in the Donations Animal Shelter Fund, Training / Education was \$2,000.00. Mr. Bontreger stated that the Commissioners approved \$1,100. Mr. Risner made a motion to approve \$1,100. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / SHERIFF RISNER: Advertised in the County General Fund, Jail, Part-time was \$23,000.00. Sheriff Risner stated that he is unable to transfer money because of it being salary. Mr. Risner made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Risner stated that the population has been running over one hundred. All of the jails in Indiana are close to maximum capacity. Jasper County has approximately ten or eleven Department of Corrections inmates. We can charge \$35.00 per day per inmate, but the actual costs are between \$56.00 and \$58.00 per day per inmate. He said that he may run short on meal money, but might be able to transfer from the Misdemeanant Fund.

PROMPT AMBULANCE: Bob Miller, Regional Manager, was present to inform the Council of a new initiative they are promoting with Keener Township Ambulance and Southern Jasper County Ambulance called Vial of Life. This is a form that an individual will fill out providing all pertinent medical information that can be used by first responders to effectively treat the individual. It is currently only available in print form to be hung in a visible place, such as the refrigerator. The individual can also make multiple copies to keep one in their vehicle, purse, wallet, etc. He said the three agencies would also like to organize an EMT class.

HONEYWELL: Kendell Culp introduced James Zellman from Honeywell and explained that the County has previously worked with EMCORE and HAVEL on a guaranteed energy savings program. Both entities have also done work at the jail. The County and the Sheriff have not been happy with the outcome of the work that Havel's done, therefore the County decided not to go through with the third phase of the project. With Honeywell, the County is looking for a long-term plan to improve and maintain the HVAC system, lighting and windows at the Courthouse. The plan also includes building envelope issues. Mr. Zellman handed out a Project Feasibility Study. He said that Honeywell did not use the information previously obtained by Havel and instead are providing their own recommendations. They can look at a long-term capital needs program, undersized ductwork and controls.

The next step in the process is competitive bidding. Mr. Zellman mentioned different funding options, such as bonds, grants and alternative funding. The largest grant available in Indiana currently is the Community Conservation Challenge through the Office of Energy Development. This is awarded twice per year in the range of \$20,000.00 to \$80,000.00. At the beginning of the year, utility companies offer rebate programs. He said that Honeywell fills out all the grant paperwork for the County. Honeywell has a finance group that will help the County identify what funding mechanisms are available, at no extra cost. Mr. Bontreger asked if the new equipment would last throughout the simple payback and Mr. Zellman replied that most equipment lasts twenty years, except a small building using a residential unit.

For the Needs Assessment, Honeywell looked at the Courthouse, Annex, Jail, Surveyor's Office and the Highway garage.

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HONEYWELL CONT'D: The Courthouse currently has two eight percent efficiency boilers that are twenty four years old. The chiller is also about the same age. If the boilers break down, replacement parts are non-existent. The chillers use R-22 refrigerant, which increases in cost per day. Mr. Zellman stated that the logical process would be to start with the boilers and chillers as opposed to the unit ventilators. The unit ventilators and control system will provide improved building comfort, reduced utility consumption, maintainability of systems, improved air quality and increased infrastructure longevity. When the third floor was commissioned as an energy savings project, Mr. Zellman stated that Havel's idea for energy savings was to shut off all the equipment at night when there is no one in the building. Obtaining the savings that route causes problems with stagnant, humid air and moisture problems. It will also cause the equipment to work harder all day to get to the set point. Honeywell believes that the ductwork in the Jail is undersized, which causes air flow issues. He noticed in the maintenance contract that the current provider is using HEPA filters, which are fine if you have good air flow. Mr. Zellman will be looking in to using a standard filter that's replaced more often, even if it means the County's maintenance employees would perform the work. He talked about control units for sinks, showers and toilets in the Jail. He intends to discuss the Jail with Sheriff Risner. In the project scope, Honeywell also recommended new interior storm windows at the Courthouse and the Annex. There was also discussion about replacing broken seals and glass on the windows that need it. He stated that the storm windows can be used on aluminum frame windows and can be operable or inoperable. A lighting upgrade would more than pay for itself within the twenty year period. Mr. Zellman said that he was informed by three people, two of which are manufacturers of that type of equipment, that the system on the third floor of the Courthouse is in fact more of a closed architecture system, meaning other systems can't communicate with it. It will cost approximately \$50,000.00 to put in place what would be needed to communicate with an open architecture system. For the Annex building, it is recommended to replace the older Hastings air handler unit and the air conditioning unit and install new programmable thermostats. If Honeywell is the winning bidder of the Jail, he said they intend to look at the evaluation of the Jail, taking into consideration past problems and future intent to run the system and try to reduce the impact to the daily operations of jail staff. The total project cost is \$2,350,000.00. He explained that if the County chooses a phased approach, it will cost more in the long run because there is a cost each time a resource is used. If done in phases, an example of what the first phase would be are the two boilers, the high efficiency chiller, piping and storm windows at a cost of approximately \$550,000.00. The storm windows add \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00 to the cost of the project.

He stated that he will be at the Commissioners meeting on October 2, 2017. He will be asking the Commissioners to entertain a motion to advertise for bidding. Regarding the Community Corrections building, Honeywell found that major work needs to be done to the insulated systems, the ductwork and possibly the HVAC system. He will be proposing a plan to the Commissioners during the October 2nd meeting to help the County with that building.

TRANSFER / SURVEYOR: Mr. Andree made a motion to approve a transfer from Equipment Repair to Gas, Oil & Lube in the County General Fund in the amount of \$2,000.00. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / DRAINAGE BOARD: Mr. Fritts made a motion to approve a transfer from Office Supplies to Compensation in the County General Fund in the amount of \$300.00. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / WEED BOARD: Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve a transfer from Chemicals to Part-Time in the County General Fund in the amount of \$3,000.00. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Mr. Risner made a motion to approve an amendment to the salary ordinance for the Superior Court Reporter in the amount of \$41,942.00 with a maximum rate per hour of \$26.16 and for the Probation Secretary in the amount of \$38,205.00 with a maximum rate per hour of \$18.36. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS: Mr. Norwine made motion to approve a Resolution declaring the Riverboat Fund dormant and the remaining funds transferred in to the General Fund.

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RESOLUTIONS CONT'D: The exact amount, which is over \$1,000,000.00 will be filled in by the Auditor, Kimberly Grow. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Resolution No. 2017-09G**

Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve a Resolution declaring the Cumulative Jail Fund dormant and remaining funds transferred in to the General Fund. The exact amount will be filled in by the Auditor, Kimberly Grow. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Resolution No. 2017-09H**

RICHELLE WINSTEAD / JCEDO: Richelle Winstead was present and gave an update about recent and upcoming festivals. She stated that they are currently doing interviews for the new LEDO.

There being no further business and no public comment, Mr. Fritts made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County